Development of AWACS by India

1710. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the development of AWACS type aircraft, the money spent so far and how much more time it would take;

(b) whether any progress has been made on developing the rotordome; and

(c) what is the Government's assessment about the Iraqi claim that it has development its own AWACS type aircraft which has already been test flown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Presently DRDO is engaged in generating requisite database and infrastructure for development of AEW Technology. There is no ongoing INDIAN AWACS Project.

(b) Competence building for installation of structural rotordome in HS 748 aircraft is in progress.

(c) No detailed information on the subject is available; however as per Jane's Defence Weekly, Iraq is reported to have modified one of the aircraft for limited AEW role.

U.S. ban on hitech device to India

1711. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bush Administration (US) has decided to ban the sale of hitech device to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The supply of a hitech device known as Combined Acceleration Vibration and Climatic Test System (CAVCTS) which was ordered by us for design and development of tactical missiles has been withheld by US administration.

(b) This equipment is used for testing missile sub-systems and components under various combined vibration levels and temperature conditions. It has been brought to the notice of the US Administration that an export licence was given earlier and extended.

Indo-US Joint Naval exercises

1712. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Authorities proposed joint naval exercises of Indian and US Navy during talks with the Defence Minister on his visit to that country; if so, what was his reaction;

(b) whether plans for greater cooperation between Navies of the two countries were discussed; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what is US's reaction to India's desire for technological cooperation about under water technology and what is the possibility of cooperation in that sphere?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Specific requests, if and when received, will be duly considered on merits, and prevailing circumstances.

(b) The discussions were of a general nature. No specific decisions were arrived at.

(c) Exploratory discussions were held regarding cooperation in under-water technology.